

Handwriting starter kit

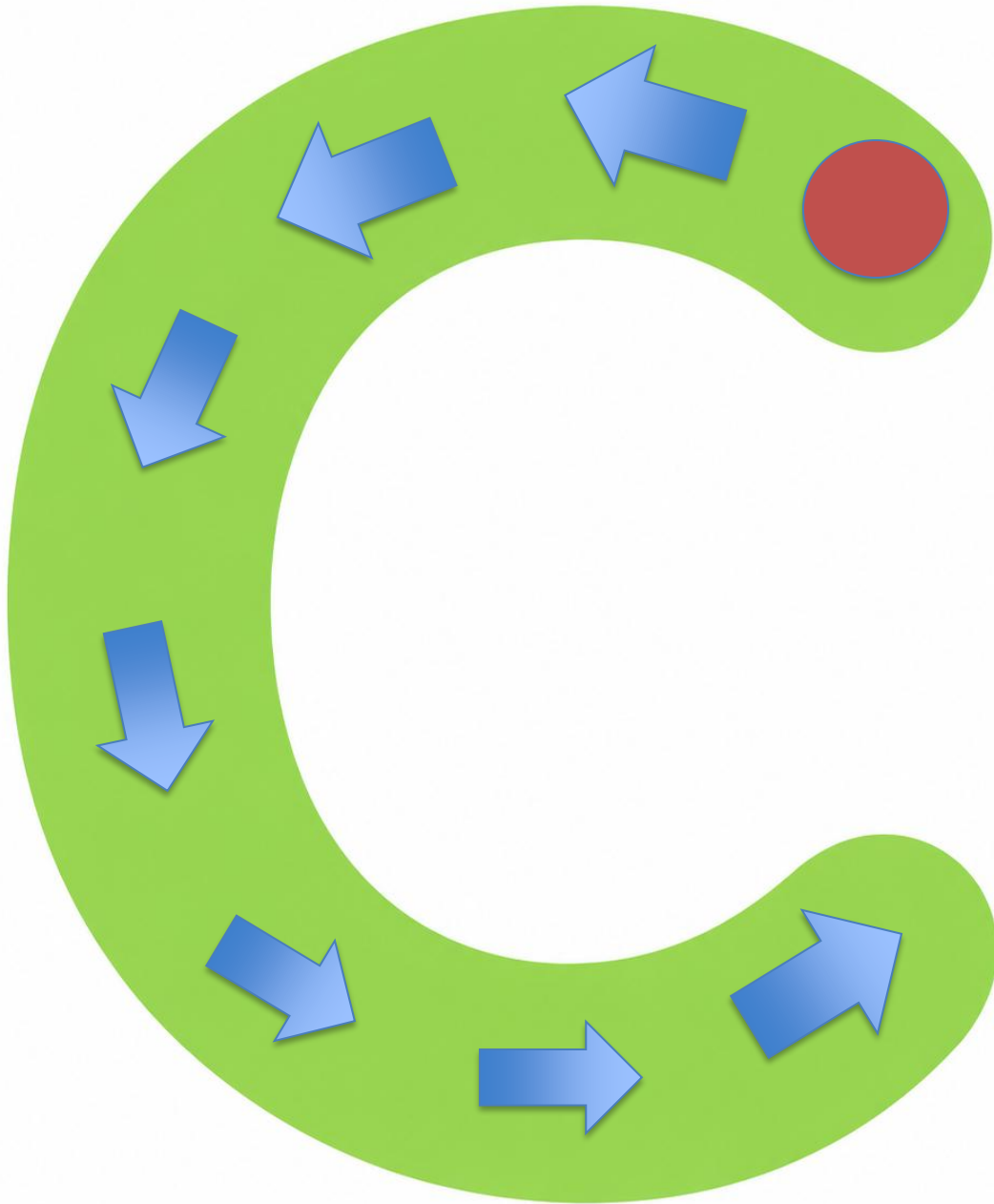
Before your child even holds a pencil, **make sure their hands are ready.**

Strong writing starts long before children write letters. Before formal handwriting, children need to build the small muscles in their hands and fingers through play. **Threading beads, rolling and squeezing playdough, opening and closing containers, building with LEGO, using tweezers, cutting, peeling stickers and other hands-on activities** all strengthen the muscles needed for pencil control.

In Nursery, children should not be expected to complete formal writing tasks unless they naturally choose to make marks in their play. Instead, encourage mark making through painting, drawing with chalk outdoors, writing in sand, foam or shaving cream, using water and brushes, and exploring different textures. These playful experiences develop creativity, confidence and the foundations for writing without unnecessary pressure.

When children are developmentally ready for formal writing, correct letter formation becomes important. Starting with **strong hands, good pencil control** and the correct formation from the beginning makes writing easier, neater and far less frustrating.

Start with c!



The easiest way to learn good letter formation is to begin with the letter c.

 *Start at the 2 o'clock position on an imaginary clock.*

 *Go anti-clockwise around to 5 o'clock.*

Once your child can form a good c, many other letters follow and become much easier.

c - start at 2 o'clock and go around to 5 o'clock.

o - start just like a 'c', but keep going until you close the circle.

a - start with a 'c', but then go up and straight down to finish.

d - start with a 'c', then go back to the top nice and tall and come back down.

g - start with a 'c' to form an 'a', then continue down below the line, curve round and finish with a little tail.

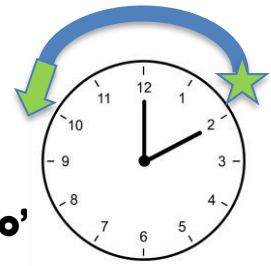
Remember:

'c' is the starting point.

If children learn to form c correctly, they already know how to begin writing o, a, d and g.

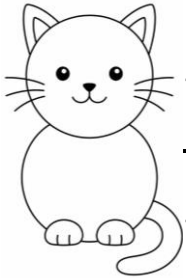
One simple starting point helps build confident, consistent handwriting.

Letter Formation Practice



C —

start at 2 o'clock and move anti-clockwise to 5 o'



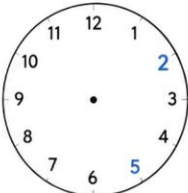
C

Perfect Letter Formation Starts with 'c'

We use a clock to help children start in the right place.
Always start at 2 o'clock and go around the clock anti clockwise.

1 Make 'c'

Start at 2 o'clock.
Go around the clock
anti clockwise
and stop at 5 o'clock.

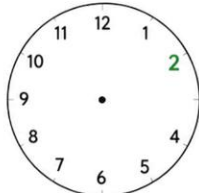


C

Stop at 5 o'clock.

2 Make 'o'

Start at 2 o'clock.
Go all the way around
the clock anti clockwise
and stop back at 2 o'clock.

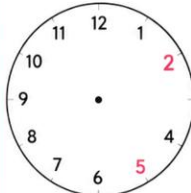


O

Stop at 2 o'clock.

3 Make 'a'

Start like 'c'.
Instead of closing,
go up and down.

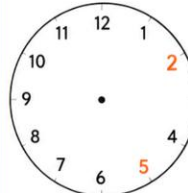


a

'c' first,
then up and down.

4 Make 'd'

Make a 'c'.
Then go up
tall.

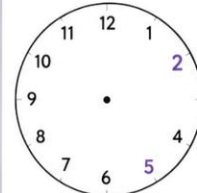


d

'c' first,
then up tall.

5 Make 'g'

Make a 'c'.
Then go down
below the line.



g

'c' first,
then down
below the line.



Starting with the 'c' shape builds a strong foundation for many letters.
Practice little and often, praise effort, and keep it fun!

For more helpful tips visit <https://www.earlyyearspad.com/> or check out my formation videos on our socials. To gain access to a quick-fire writing course, get in touch via email: admin@earlyyearspad.com